



UNIVERSITÉ  
DE MONTPELLIER



CENTRE D'ÉCOLOGIE  
FONCTIONNELLE  
& ÉVOLUTIVE

The **Centre of Evolutionary and Functional Ecology (CEFE)** is one of the largest and most dynamic French research centers in Ecology. Its mission is to perform independent, fundamental scientific research on the dynamics of biodiversity, planetary environmental change, and sustainable development.

**Enquiries and further information:**

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**Applications:**

Please send applications (letter motivating your interest and your CV) to Stephan Hättenschwiler. The marks and rankings of all bachelor and master years will also be needed for the application at the doctoral school.

**Closing date for applications:**

**Before 30 May 2022 at noon.**

**Place of work:**

Centre d'Ecologie Fonctionnelle et Evolutive  
1919, route de Mende  
F-34293 Montpellier

**Open PhD position** at the **Centre of Evolutionary and Functional Ecology (CEFE)**, University of Montpellier. Funding: 50% from the University of Montpellier and 50% through the BiodivOc consortium project BELOW. Salary according to the common French standards with 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 as start date.

**PhD position "Interacting effects of soil biodiversity and climate change on ecosystem functioning in a Mediterranean forest"**

The PhD position is part of the **BELOW** project (BiodivOc consortia program) and includes several partners from Montpellier, Toulouse, and Moulis (<https://biodivoc.edu.umontpellier.fr/recherche/projet-s-consortium/>). The project aims at understanding the interactive effects of soil biodiversity and climate change on ecosystem functioning across major ecosystems in the Occitanie region.

The main focus of the PhD is on the ongoing large experiment with model ecosystems of Mediterranean forests and varying diversity of soil macrofauna communities exposed to extreme drought at the **CNRS European Ecotron** in Montpellier, a world leading controlled environmental facility for ecosystem research. Depending on the candidates' profile and specific interests, the PhD may focus on above- and belowground plant responses, soil microbial diversity and activity - including trace gas fluxes - or ecosystem-level carbon, nutrient and water cycling. A closer involvement in other activities within BELOW (including field work) together with the project partners of BELOW is also possible. Supervisors are Stephan Hättenschwiler and Alex Milcu.

**Requirements:**

- Excellent Master degree in biology / ecology / microbiology / biogeochemistry
- Experience and autonomy in experimental work
- Skills in data analysis and statistics
- Proficient English language skills and writing experience

**We offer:**

- Top level interdisciplinary research at a research centre with excellent international reputation
- Excellent technical facilities
- Work in an ambitious ongoing experiment with international connections
- A flexible research agenda offering the possibility to develop own ideas
- Support and optimal training courses by our graduate school GAIA at the University of Montpellier